

Agricultural Burning Practices & Research Task Force #67 Meeting Summary

DATE: June 27, 2006

LOCATION: Walla Walla Regional Airport, Walla Walla WA.

<u>Members Present</u>		<u>Representing</u>
Karen Wood- Interim Chair	Air Quality Program	Department of Ecology
Larry Cochran	Grower	Conservation Districts
Jay Penner	Washington Association of Wheat Growers	Agricultural Community
Michael Ingham	Alfalfa Seed Industry	Agricultural Community
Dave Lauer	Benton County Clean Air Authority	Eastern Washington Local Air Authorities
Michael Bush	WSU Extension	Academia, (Tree Fruit)
Bill Johnston	Washington State University	Academia, (Crop & Soil)
Don Potts	WA. Dept of Agricultural	WA. Dept. of Agriculture
Sverre Vedal	University Of Washington	Public Health
<u>Members Absent</u>		
John Cornwall	Grass Seed Industry	Grass Seed Industry

Introductions, Announcements

The 67th Agricultural Burning Practices and Research Task Force (Task Force) meeting was held on June 27th, 2006 at the Walla Walla Regional Airport in Walla Walla, Washington. The Task Force meeting began with the introduction of Task Force members and guests.

The June meeting of the Task Force is normally reserved for hearing results of the research projects funded by the task force, as well as revising, amending, and approving the Best Management Practices, (BMP's) for the upcoming year.

Research Presentations

The Task Force first heard from Dr. Johnston on the results of the research he has been conducting on the development of High Yielding Turf-type Kentucky Bluegrass Varieties for Non-burn. He has several very promising accessions ready for on-farm seed production plot trials and, possibly, turf-grass trials. The presentation he gave at the Task Force meeting is available at:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/aginfo/research_pdf_files/2006HiYieldingKentuckyBluegrassforNon-ThermalManagementResearchUpdate.pdf

The next presentation was from Dr. Walsh on the results so far from his research on Alternatives to Burning Alfalfa Seed Fields. He showed the results of a weed seed study, an herbicide/burning field trial, and findings on disease varieties with various treatments of the alfalfa plots. Dr. Walsh's report is available at:

[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/aginfo/research_pdf_files/2006AlttoBurningfinalfalfaseedfi
eldsResUpdate.pdf](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/aginfo/research_pdf_files/2006AlttoBurningfinalfalfaseedfi
eldsResUpdate.pdf)

Dr. Schillinger presented the results so far from his 6 year study of Direct Seeding into Heavy Irrigated Stubble. Four publications are expected next year from this study. The presentation Dr. Schillinger made at Task Force Meeting #67 is available at:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/aginfo/research_pdf_files/2006DirectSeedResearchUpdate.pdf

Mark Lewis then presented a progress report on his cereal straw utilization study, with a tie-in of using “waste” products from pulp production in producing glycol presented by Mr. Brix of International Polyol Chemicals Inc. Mr. Lewis’ presentation is available at:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/aginfo/research_pdf_files/2006StrawResidueResearchUpdate.pdf

BMP's

One of the required activities at the June meeting of the Agricultural Burning Task Force is either to modify or reconfirm existing Best Management Practices (BMP's), and to institute new BMP's.

The Agricultural Burning Task Force reinstated the orchard BMP with no changes by unanimous vote. It is available at:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/aginfo/research_pdf_files/Orchard_BMP_06.pdf

The Agricultural Burning Task Force reinstated the non-cereal BMP with no changes by unanimous vote. It is available at:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/aginfo/research_pdf_files/Non_Cereal_BMP_06.pdf

The Task Force decided to modify Part 3 of the cereal grain BMP, eliminating the paragraph strongly recommending consultation with agronomic professionals, and modifying the mention of an “emission reduction short course” to an “emission reduction education program.” The Task Force voted to modify the existing BMP and instate the modified BMP unanimously. This BMP is available at:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/aginfo/research_pdf_files/Cereal_BMP_06.pdf

The Task Force discussed in length a revised version of the Spot Burn BMP designed to clarify the Spot Burn requirements and limitations. The Task Force voted 7 to 2 in favor of the revised BMP. This BMP is available at:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/aginfo/research_pdf_files/Spot_Burn_BMP_06.pdf

The Task Force instituted a new BMP, the Bale Burn BMP. This BMP is available at:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/aginfo/research_pdf_files/Bale_Burn_BMP_06.pdf

The newly instituted BMPs are valid through June 30, 2007.

Public Comment

Bob West, of the Yakima Regional Clean Air Agency (YRCAA) introduced himself. The YRCAA, Mr. West explained, plans to attend Task Force Meetings on a more regular basis.

Thomas Schasteen presented the Task Force with literature on a flame retardant delivery system in which he thought there might be interest.

Gretchen Borck, of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) announced that WAWG, Dr. Bill Schillinger, and the Department of Ecology had been successful in the receiving an award of a \$1.8 million grant by the National Resource Conservation Service for the demonstration and advancement of the under-cutter method for winter wheat-summer fallow farming in the inland Pacific Northwest. This method decreases soil erosion and results in less dust in the air. For more information, contact WAWG at 1-800-598-6890.